

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

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Please replace the paragraph at page 9, line 19, to page 10, line 2, with the following:

a |
A communication switch 212 couples adjacent rings 211. The communication switch 212 receives and transmits messages on each ring 211, and operates to bridge messages from a first ring 211 to a second ring 211. The communication switch 212 bridges those messages that are transmitted on the first ring 211 and designated for transmission to the second ring 211. A switch 212 can also be coupled directly to a file server node 111.